

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30

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Second Quarter 2015 Issue 188

Charles Neyhart Wins Second Helbock Prize

La Posta Publications Publisher Peter Martin has announced that, for the second consecutive year, Charles Neyhart has been selected as the winner of the 2015 Richard W. Helbock Prize that is awarded to the best postal history article appearing in the previous year's *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*.

Neyhart won the 2015 Helbock prize for his “‘A Knife in the Back’ The 1915 San Diego Panama California Exposition” that appeared in the Third Quarter, 2014 *La Posta*. He won the 2014 Helbock prize for “The 1905 Portland, Oregon, Lewis & Clark Exposition Postal Stations.”

Neyhart, who holds a PhD in business administration from Penn State, retired in 2001 as emeritus professor of business from Oregon State University and lives in Portland.

His 2014 article examined how the organizers of the San Diego Exposition had been betrayed by political maneuvering that left full government support to the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. The San Diego committee persevered and Neyhart provides a detailed review of the Expo's success story through its postal history.

For his win, Neyhart receives cash and prizes valued at nearly \$450. The runner-up and third place recipients also receive cash and prize awards.

Runner-up for the 2015 prize was “We Circle the Globe: The Post Card Union and Their Private Stamps” by Richard S. Hemmings (Second Quarter, 2014 *La Posta*) of Stewartstown, Pa.

Hemmings, the winner of the inaugural Helbock Prize in 2013 with “New York City's Cortlandt Street: One Way to the River,” provided a first-time look at the stamps and postal history of the postcards of the Union News Company.

Third place was awarded to “Mary White Ovington and the Fight for Racial Equality” by Jesse I. Spector and Rob-

ert L. Markovits (Second Quarter, 2014 *La Posta*). The article is an example of social philately at its finest.

Both authors reside in Massachusetts. Jesse Spector is a retired hematologist-oncologist; Bob Markovits is an attorney.

Receiving honorable mentions were: “The Modern Challenge: The U.S. Postal Service Sorts the Mail” by David Crotty; “The Earliest Documented Use of a Government Postal Card in Alaska” by Don Glickstein; “International ‘Form of Mail’ Problems” by John M. Hotchner; “A Black Jack Use from the Old Capitol Prison” and “An Aristocratic Planter Goes to War” by Patricia A. Kaufmann; “Bisects in the Mails: Illegal But Tolerated” by Richard D. Martorelli; “The Rise and Fall of a Classified Postal Station: Station E and Montgomery Ward, Portland, Oregon” by Charles Neyhart; “The Classification of Four-Bar Postmarks Appearing After the Introduction of the ZIP Code” by Christine C. Sanders; and “Atherton Perry Mason: Physician, Philatelist, Renaissance Man” by Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits.

The selections were based on voting by the *La Posta* editorial staff and the Benefactor and Sustaining subscribers of *La Posta*.

The Richard W. Helbock Prize is named in honor of the founding editor of *La Posta* who died from a heart attack in 2011. Helbock founded *La Posta* in 1969 and continued to edit the journal for more than 42 years until his death.

La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History is published four times per year. It is the leading journal devoted to American postal history and marks its 46th year of publication in 2015. Subscriptions are \$32 per year. For more information contact: La Posta Publications, POB 6074 Fredericksburg, VA 22403 or e-mail laposta.joan@yahoo.com

Peter Martin



Richard W. Neyhart



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David Crotty From the Editor

Thanks Gene

Gene Fricks has been a great President for the Writer's Unit since he stepped forward last year when we had some problems. He has been extremely helpful even though he had to get other things done at the same time.

Hall of Fame

Our normal Hall of Fame selection process has some delays this year. The committee is working on the process as this is written but we need to get TPC out to members before June 21 in order to have the election of officers. Announcements will be made when possible.

Election of WU30 officers

The election ballot can be found inside this issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. We ask members to vote and place the ballot in an envelope with a return address that our Secretary-Treasurer can use to identify each voter as a member in good standing. Our officer candidates are:

President: Lloyd de Vries

Vice President: David E. Crotty

Secretary Treasurer: Ken Trettin

Council: Dane S. Claussen

Council: Daniel C. Warren

The second vice president position will be vacant for now. The Bylaws provide that the President may appoint a vice president if required.

We have two candidates for council. The bylaws provide for four to eight members of council including the president, editor and immediate past president.

We are very grateful to the people who have agreed to work for our society for the next two years.

Dave



Gene Fricks *President's Message*

Coming to the end of this term of office, I can reflect on a continuing very fine publication and an excellent Writer's Breakfast last August in Hartford. While I will be travelling (business) during Stampshow this year, I expect that the Writer's Unit will have an outstanding meeting. When you elected me, I said that I was in the game for only one hand and encouraged the development of younger leaders with fresh perspectives and energies. I still believe that is the path of health and prosperity for the hobby and our organization(s).

Normally, when Dave hits me up for a column, something has occurred to strike an idea that you might find interesting. Last issue, it was the untimely passing of Scott Troutman and the absolute need to ensure the succession in our organizations. Fallout from that continues to occur, with positive results. A few groups have at least discussed what to do if their editor or president exits the stage. Folks, if you don't do some emergency planning, when the stuff hits the fan, you are going to be in a world of organizational hurt. Our memberships have come to expect, rightly

or not, a certain level of quality and delivery with our hobby publications. A temporary, short lived disruption most will understand; anything more than that could kill your group.

It appears that the nominations for the Writer's Unit Hall of Fame are in progress, although I am not quite certain that the paperwork will be complete enough for this issue of the *Communicator*. They should be well in hand by the time of the Breakfast. The committee has gone back to its file of past recommendations to determine if there are noteworthy nominees hidden there. Needless to say, nearly everyone in that list is, or once was, a prominent writer deserving of recognition. All save one are no longer with us; we should work assiduously to gather them into the fold of honorees before their memories have so faded as to be forgotten.

Enjoy your trip to Grand Rapids this summer if you are attending Stampshow. It is a pleasant city well worth exploring. Enjoy one another's company. Next summer, it will be World Stamp Show 2016 in New York and that will be a great experience. I've attended every one since the 1956 show in New York and they only get better. Get involved - there is room for everybody and the more hands, the easier the task.

It's been fun, if a little hectic at times. See you around.

Gene

"I, Robot" in the Post Modern Era

With his last President's message, Gene Fricks also gave me a message suggesting that we read a short article at www.maketecheasier.com titled "Can Writers be Replaced by Machines?" This missive, written by one Miguel Leiva-Gomez, who may or may not be a machine, asks if a machine could write our news and novels and paint a work of art. This might be of great interest for our future WU30 President, Lloyd, since he toils the night shift writing news stories for the next morning.

Apparently machines are indeed taking some of the toil out of writing news stories. A company named Automated Insights sells WordSmith that is being used to write short articles published on Yahoo! and other outlets. I had been wondering why the Yahoo links to sites like MaxMedia and Business Insider seemed so fictional.

An NPR reporter, Scott Horsley, ran a little contest with WordSmith on a short story about a business report on Denny's quarterly results. WordSmith did it in 2 minutes, Horsley took a bit more than seven

minutes. Horsely's article had a little more human interest in it but WordSmith certainly told the story.

Isaac Asimov wrote a series of robot stories in the 1940s that were incorporated into one book in 1950 with the name "I, Robot". That book is out there at Amazon. His robots had three laws they needed to follow. They occasionally had trouble when these laws conflicted. Some of them would shut down and die due to these conflicts. Most of us would say humans have these kinds of conflicts too. Perhaps one of Asimov's robots could have been asked to write about the conflicts it encountered. It might have gained some insight into its troubles and these stories might have given us some help too. The beginning of the post-modern novel.

Personally this editor would like to see some more articles about the conflicts that philatelic writers, editors and publishers encounter. Our recent "Who will Replace us" was a good start. These stories might help companies like Automated Insights build better writing machines. ☺

Enhance Article Images with Free Graphic Software

By Steve Swain

I am sometimes asked by people who read my philatelic articles to tell them about the sophisticated software I use to produce the various effects for the stamp and cover images in the articles: Stamps with overlays of text or circled sections, covers that have been cropped and those sections rotated, sharpened or blurred, colored arrows pointing to special characteristics of postmarks and other markings, and so on. I quickly respond that the software I use is neither sophisticated nor expensive. In fact, the easy-to-use software is free (for non-commercial use). Image viewing and editing programs for use with writing philatelic articles are readily available for downloading from the internet. On occasion, a fee is required to also download advanced functionality, called plug-ins and add-ons. But, for the most part, the standard feature set of these free tools is quite sufficient for philatelic authors seeking to enhance the images used in their articles.

These programs were designed primarily for use with digital photography to support the reality that most pictures these days will linger on a camera's memory drive - or a computer's memory once the photos are transferred from the digital camera - and never be printed. We view photos on screens. As a consequence, hundreds of tools have been developed to edit and organize photos to create a personalized tapestry of images.

The image viewing and editing software that has consistently received two thumbs up from reviewers are Zoner Photo Studio, XnView, FastStone Image Viewer, WildBit Viewer, Nomacs Image Lounge and IrfanView (Figure 1). I have been using IrfanView (named after its author Irfan Skiljan) for several years and have found it very useful and feature rich. It's a small download requiring a mere 2 MB on your computer. It is designed to be simple for beginners and powerful for professionals. IrfanView has steadily remained the most downloaded free viewer and editing program. (For additional information about IrfanView, visit Wikipedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IrfanView>).

Caution should be exercised when using these editing tools for images placed in philatelic articles. It is advised not to modify images to a point where they do not fairly represent the originals. Doing this definitely questions the integrity of the article and its author. Moreover, it is recommended that when you use such modified images in your article you provide full disclosure regarding the images' original features and what was changed or enhanced.

Here are several examples of how IrfanView – and other image editing software – can be valuable to philatelic authors seeking to enhance the images of stamps and covers used in their articles.

If you have a stamp with a dominant color of blue



Figure 1. IrfanView's Home Page

Graphic continued from page 4

and a postmark or cancellation that is not readily discernable – such as the left image of the Algerian stamp in Figure 2 – open the stamp’s image in IrfanView, select *Image* from the main menu and then select *Show Channel-Blue*. This will, in essence, filter out the blue color of the stamp and allow for a much more distinct display of the postmark, as seen in the Figure 2 image on the right. The *Show Channel* color options also include Red and Green for a similar use with stamps of those colors.

After you scan a cover (or copy its image from the internet) to be used as the principal focus of your article and that cover’s image is light or faint, or significant markings are faded, open the cover’s image in IrfanView and select *Color Corrections* from the *Image* main menu item. You can then adjust the primary characteristics of the image so it is more appropriate for illustration and discussion in your article.

As an example, seen in Figure 3 on the left is IrfanView’s display of the original, somewhat faint

image of a “Hanging Lincoln” confederate patriotic cover from the American Civil War. Using the sliders for *Brightness*, *Contrast*, *Color Balance*, *Gamma correction* and *Saturation*, adjust the Lincoln image, as seen on the right side of the IrfanView screen, and copy that enhanced image into your article. In my experience, *Gamma correction* is the most useful tool in

that it allows you to slightly darken the image to achieve a greater depth without significantly altering the image’s original color, which would be the result when using *Color balance* and *Saturation*.

If a cover has a special marking, such as an autograph, that you wish to highlight in

an article, the *Crop* feature of IrfanView’s *Edit* function provides the answer. Opened in IrfanView (Figure 4) is a cover from the May, 1938 National Air Mail Week celebration with the autograph of the pilot - Jesse Jones - who flew the plane carrying the cover. Jones’ signature is vertically placed between the cachet and the stamps franking the cover, apparently signed before the cover received its postmark and



Figure 2. Algerian Stamp Before and After Image, Show Channel-Blue Enhancement

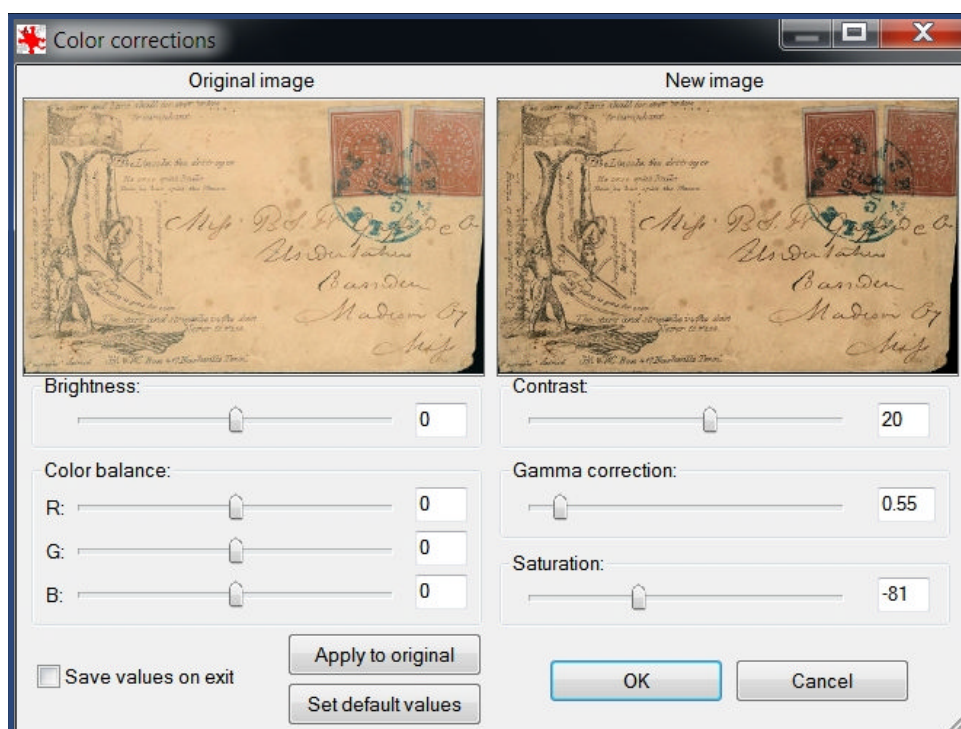


Figure 3. IrfanView’s Color Correction Tool

Graphic continued page 6

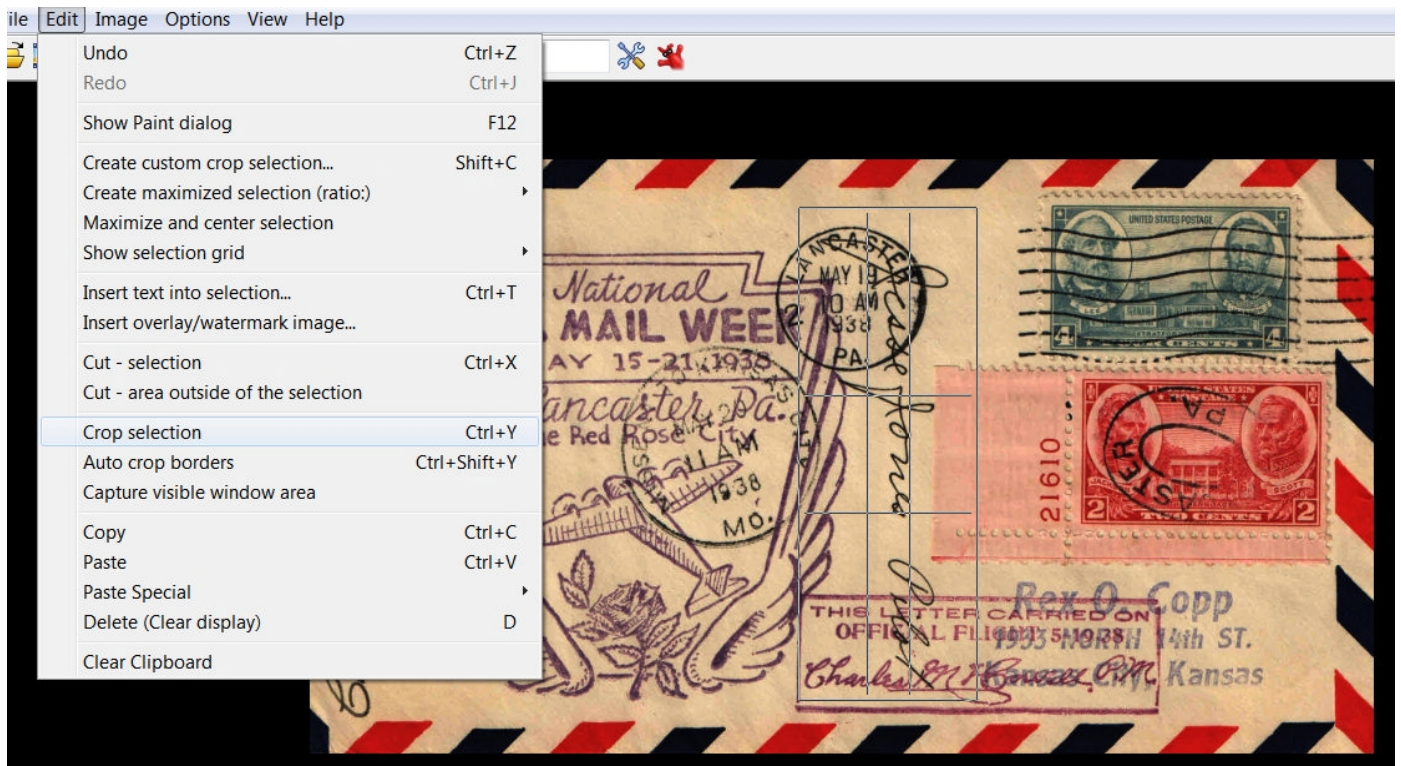


Figure 4. IrfanView's *Crop selection* Feature

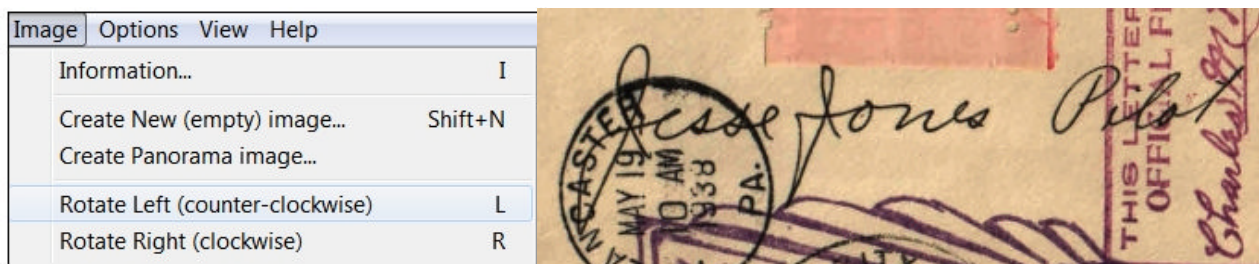


Figure 5. IrfanView's *Rotate Left (counter-clockwise)* Feature of selected area from Figure 4

cancellation since the postmark somewhat obscures “Jesse”. A horizontal view of the signature may be more appropriate for your article.

By holding down the left button of the mouse and then “drawing around” the area to be cropped, the signature area of the cover is outlined with a grid. Clicking *Crop selection* will extract the selected area. Then, use the *Rotate Left* function from the *Image* main menu selection (Figure 5) to create an appropriate “horizontal” version of the image of the signature for the article.

These are but a few of the many easy to use features of IrfanView and other image editing freeware programs. You may also find beneficial the *Clone* tool that copies one part of an image to another area, the *Text* tool that overlays formatted text onto the im-

age and the *Ellipse* and *Rectangle* tools that draw circles and squares around selected image areas. *Resize*, *Add Border*, *Blur*, *Sharpen*, *Auto Adjust Color*, *Emboss*, and the list goes on. So explore one or several of the free graphic software programs to learn how images supporting your philatelic articles can be improved and enhanced.

Editor's Note: As the editor for Meter Stamp Society Bulletin it is common that meter stamps come to us faintly. The use of IrfanView's “Image” and “Color Correction” feature can bring out faint meter stamp prints to full readability. On the downside I have purchased meter stamps whose eBay ad has been adjusted this way to find that the real item is really not as nice as the photo showed. ☹

Reviews

Print & Electronic



***Australian Crash Mail and other incidents 1917-1930*, by Brian R Peace FRPSL**, Published by the author, 300-pages, A4, full color. US\$90 outside the UK & Europe, UK£50 within the UK, and Europe €80, all postpaid. Net proceeds are donated to charity as with other books published by this author. Payment by PayPal to Brian Peace at brpeace@ntlworld.com or go to www.brianpeace.com. For alternate payment method contact author.

The title is slightly misleading. Yes, this book covers all air crashes and incidents where mail was involved; but it is much more than that. The author has been thorough in setting a context; not simply explaining the distinction between an accident and an incident, but detailing both the constituent parts of an aircraft and the reasons for aerial events which lead to a crash. So the reader can skim over the section on aircraft components, controls and terminology, and return to it when a technical explanation of a crash is required.

There follows a chronology of aviation accident investigation in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. One can deduce from this that inquiries and investigations, even in the 1920s, were reasonably detailed and professional. We are told that today, investigations can take years, the sole purpose being to learn from the event and prevent a recurrence, the sole focus being on safety, not allocating blame.

The book is not simply a listing or record of accidents and incidents involving mail within, to and from Australasia. It is effectively a study of the birth of aerial mail in Australia and New Zealand, and a comprehensive examination of the challenges and hazards facing those pioneers, from a social and historical, as well as a philatelic, perspective.

Forty-one pages are devoted to the Western Australia Airways crash on their inaugural mail flight on 5 December 1921. While this may appear excessive, an examination of the facts demonstrates that the appalling state of landing grounds and the reluctance of the government to invest in the provision of facilities

they were contracted to provide, contributed to accidents and death.

The inclusion of a census of surviving covers for many of the most important crashes, including that of 5 December 1921, will be one of the most important features for aerophilatelists, dealers and auction houses. Each census also includes the auction history of the cover, and, where appropriate, the name of the collection where it resides.

The tables at the end of each of the three chapters are useful, in that it is a relatively simple task to check early air mail covers to establish if they were involved in an incident. Chapter one covers accidents

and incidents within Australia. Chapter two covers accidents and incidents within New Zealand. And chapter three covers accidents and incidents involving mail being carried to or from Australasia. In this chapter, some flights suffered more than a dozen incidents and the author has introduced a novel way of listing these in the table as being subservient to the most significant incident.

The six pages of references point to this study being not only thorough, but wide-ranging. There are several serious, even fatal crashes of mail carrying aircraft in Australia which have remained unrecorded in philatelic literature. The possibility of new crash covers emerging is an incentive for aerophilatelists, and dealers, to re-examine their

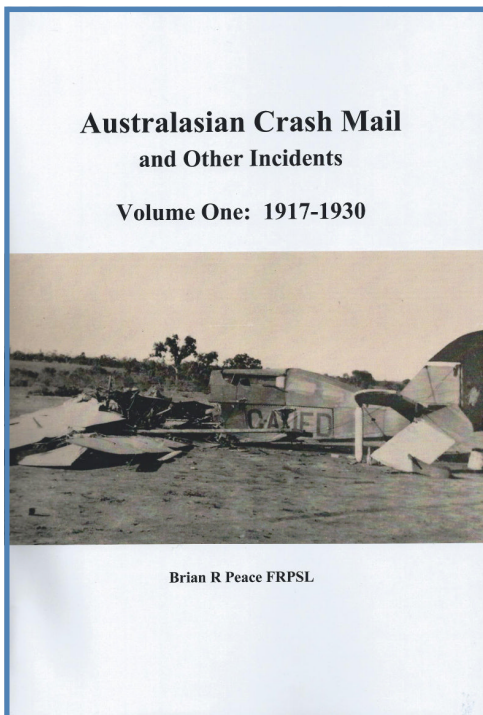
early air mail covers.

The book is the culmination of decades of research and writings. The author first wrote on the subject 53 years ago, and is the acknowledged authority on the subject. It may be that the readership will turn out to be wider than the aerophilatelists and dealers mentioned in the introduction. Some of the stories of the inter-continental flights are gripping, and one may wonder why some of these feats have remained largely unacknowledged.

Some of the cover scans are rather faint and poor quality, which is probably because the author received scans from many collectors and he had to use what he received.

We are told that four further volumes will follow over the next few years. This first volume has set a standard which it is hoped will be maintained. The book is very well done and will be essential for collectors of Australia & New Zealand crash covers.

Ken Sanford



A History of America in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps by Chris West. 350 pages, 5½ by 8½ inches, case-bound, dust jacket, Picador, New York, 2014. ISBN 978-1-250-04368-9, \$28.

This book follows the author's earlier one entitled *A History of Britain in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps*. The goal in both cases is to use stamp images to reveal some of the historic moments of the two countries. The stamps are shown in color at the beginning of each chapter along with the stamp subject, denomination, and Scott catalog number.

This book begins not with a "postage stamp" but rather revenue paper that precedes even the postmaster provisionals. The tax was imposed with Britain's 1765 Stamp Act and was intended to raise funds to recoup some of the expenses of England's war with France 1756-1763. The amount of the tax depended on what the paper would be used for—a pamphlet, a license, a contract or whatever. The act incensed the colonists leading to violence and riots, and resulted in repeal of the act after only a few months. Britain then resorted to import tariffs which eventually led to a rather major incident in Boston Harbor with a load of tea.

Author West next uses the 1847 10¢ Washington issue to present a brief profile of the commander and to summarize the war that established the new country under his leadership as General and, later, President. The history lessons continue with the 1851 1¢ Franklin, the 1856 5¢ Jefferson, and the 1863 2¢ Black Jack. The story of America unfolds chronologically with each stamp selected by Chris West including a chapter on the Civil War with the 1862 5¢ Jefferson Davis.

Some of our country's most familiar stamps lead off subsequent chapters with the 3¢ 1869, the \$5 Co-

lumbian, the \$1 Trans-Mississippi, the 1919 3¢ Victory stamp, the Fourth Bureau issues and the 1927 10¢ Lindbergh air mail among others. In each chapter the author highlights the events of that time. Commemorative issues appropriately fit the chronology and storytelling in preference to omnibus issues like the Prexies.

Post World War II issues include the United Nations, Young America, NATO, and the Emancipation Proclamation centennial. However the 1963 Christmas stamp triggers a brief portrait of JFK leading to his assassination in November that year. Apollo 8, Energy Conservation, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and Elvis Presley take us through the 70s, 80s, and 90s and Computer Technology, the Heroes of 2001, and the Beijing Olympics bring the reader into the 21st century.

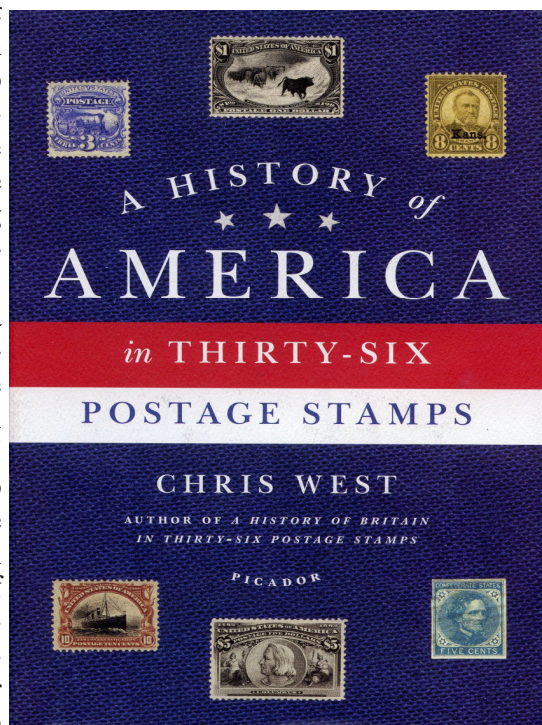
The appropriate ending to the history of America to date reflects the technology of new postage stamps using a DIY Stamps.com personal stamp de-

picting author Chris West. The history lessons are a nice storytelling device stimulated by stamps familiar to United States collectors. There is no postal history here or even images of stamps on covers. The National Postal Museum provided the excellent stamp pictures.

An appendix provides more detail on each of the stamps selected, including issue date, printer, number issued, and a few comments that appeal to both beginners and advanced collectors of the 19th century issues. The 20th century stamps have just the essentials of designer, printer, date of issue and number printed. A subject index concludes the book.

Beginner collectors, both young and old, will find the historic topics of interest, and more advanced collectors will be informed and entertained as well.

Alan Warren



Seasons of the Maple on First Day Covers by Gary Dickinson with David Hanes. 50 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, plastic coated covers, spiral bound, British North America Philatelic Society, Canada, 2014. ISBN 978-1-927119-41-9, \$40.95 Canadian from BNAPS Books, c/o Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Avenue, Ste 202, Ottawa ON K1Z 8S8, Canada, or www.sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks.

Author Gary Dickinson is treasurer and editor of

the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group. Both he and David Hanes collect FDCs of the 1971 maple leaves series that are the focus of this monograph. Dickinson begins with the introduction of the maple leaf design, which has become a Canadian icon, on the stamps of that country beginning in 1897. The adoption of Canada's new flag in 1865 underscored the importance of the maple leaf design.

A table lists the Scott catalog numbers of Canadi-

an stamps where the design is used either ornamentally, in the flag, or otherwise stylized. The maple leaf design was used on cacheted FDCs of Canada dating back to the 1930s but as a decorative feature and not issue-specific.

The cachet situation changed dramatically in 1971 when Canada Post Office introduced its own designs for its “official” first day covers. Prior to that CPO provided generic designs as replacements for damaged covers. As expected, this move resulted in several cachet makers going out of business in view of the competition. The CPO cachet entrance coincided with the release of a series of four stamps that showed maple leaves in each of the four seasons.

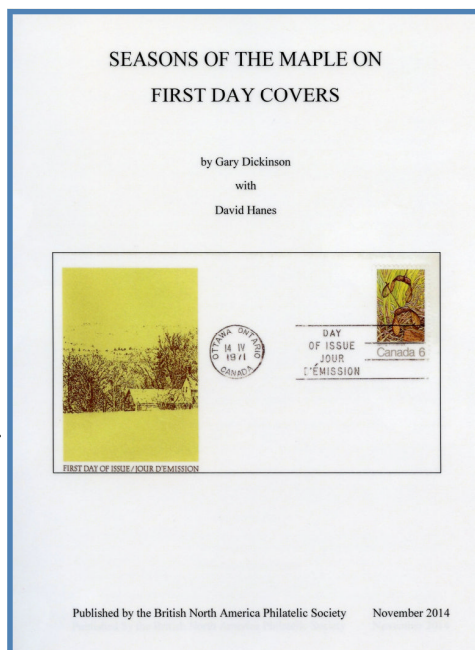
The authors show some of the stamp design work of artist Alma Duncan. Canada Post offered four different cachet designs for the four stamps by artist William Rueter. Canada Post promoted their new first day covers, offering them with singles, pairs, plain blocks, and inscription blocks of four.

The maple leaf series of stamps can be found on cachets by ArtCraft, Artopages, David C. Jackson, Overseas Mailers and many others. Most of these cachets, and a brief overview of the producers, are presented alphabetically in this book.

The work of about 40 different cachet makers is shown including several unknown ones. Some used only one design for the four stamps while others employed four or five. The pharmaceutical firm Schering produced its own covers for promotional mailings to health care professionals.

This booklet ends with a list of references for further reading about Canada cacheted first day covers and this issue of maple leaf stamps. The color illustrations help document the known material that collectors can seek. Unfortunately, this chapter in the story of Canada FDCs spells the pending doom of cachet-making in that country as a result of the entrance of Canada Post Office into the cachet arena.

Alan Warren



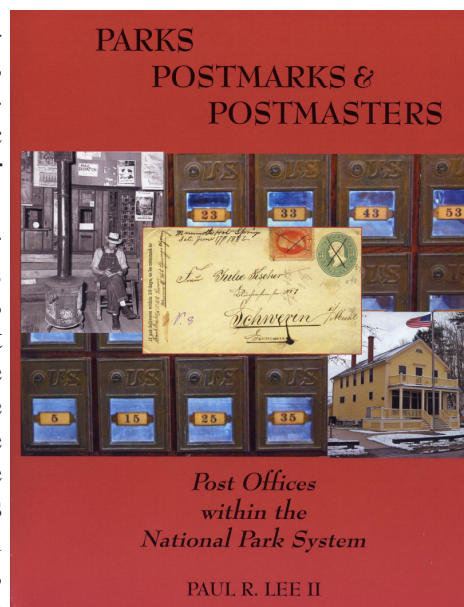
Parks, Postmarks & Postmasters: Post Offices within the National Park System by Paul R. Lee II. 260 pages, 8 ¼ by 10 ¾ inches, perfect bound with card covers or hardbound, Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Denver, Colorado, 2014. ISBN 978-0-9773578-5-7, \$29.99 (soft-bound) or \$50.00 (hardbound) plus shipping, from Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver CO 80224, or www.rmpldenver.org.

As a retired 40-year career employee of the National Park Service, and a collector as well, author Lee is in the ideal position to write about the parks and their post offices. He limits the post office listings to those that are within the boundaries of the parks, even though a few were or are on privately held land. Some RPOs associated with national parks mail are not included. If a park's mail was handled by an outside post office, the park is not included, for example Arcadia National Park.

The listings are alphabetically by park name from Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in Nebraska to Zion National Park in Utah. Each listing includes the county in which the post office is located, the names of the postmasters and their appointment dates, and when the offices were established and discontinued.

Author Paul Lee provides a brief history of each office, sometimes including wonderful anecdotes that are amusing and entertaining. Some side issues are pointed out like that of McGreely's Express local post that provided mail service between Skagway and Dyea in the Klondike Gold Rush National Park of Alaska.

Among the offices in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California, the post office at Alcatraz Island dates from 1874 when it was a military installation, through 1963 when the prison closed. Another side story offers background on the USS *San Francisco* and its action at Guadalcanal. Today its



bridge wings are preserved in a monument to the ship located at Lands End in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

This book is wonderfully illustrated with postal history items cancelled at many of the park post offices. Occasionally there are historic photos of the offices. Most of the covers and postcards shown are older items but a few first day covers and last day cancels are shown.

The book is well documented. The author uses the convention of many technical books of listing the

footnoted references at the end of each chapter, in this case the end of the listing for each letter of the alphabet. In addition to these immediate citations there is an 11-page bibliography.

A list of abbreviations used, a listing of the national parks by state, and an alphabetical index of the parks and post offices complete this very thorough and absorbing work. Collectors of United States national park postal history now have a great resource to pursue their searches.

Alan Warren

***First Day Covers of Canada's 1976 Olympic Games Issues* by Gary Dickinson. Ottawa, Canada: British North American Philatelic Society, 2014. 62 pages, 8.5 by 11 inches, color illus., spiral bound. CAN \$43.95 plus P&H.**

All BNAPS books are available from: Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Avenue, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1Z 8S8. E-mail: bnaps@sparks-auctions.com

Canada's 1976 Olympic Game issues and its stamps illustrating maple leaves are the latest book subjects written by Gary Dickinson, a *First Days* columnist and the most prolific author on subjects related to Canada's first day covers.

Dickinson worked in British Columbia secondary schools, colleges and universities for 35 years until he retired in 2001.

First Day Covers of Canada's 1976 Olympic Games Issues focuses on the stamp issues related to the 1976 Summer Games held in Montreal. The Canada Post Office launched an extensive stamp program for this event and this handbook outlines the

story of the Montreal Olympics with particular attention to the role played by the Canada Post Office and then proceeds to illustrate the numerous first day covers that were published by Canadian and United States cachetmakers.

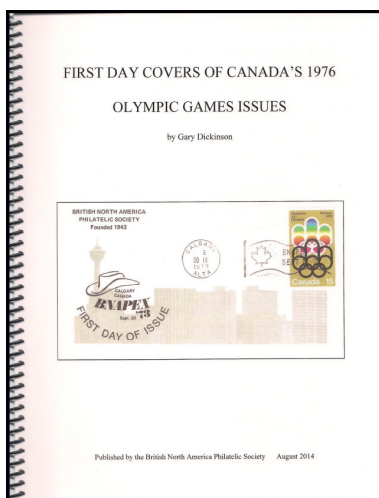
The seven chapters review Montreal's Olympics, Canada Post Office products and marketing, the cachets of Canadian and American cachetmakers and a chapter titled, "Other Games and Other Countries" that includes information about the related Olympiad for the Physically Handicapped held in Toronto and the Winter Olympics, held in Innsbruck, Austria.

A summary, two pages of references, and a handy index of FDC cachets by stamp set complete the work.

The book is in an easy to follow two-column format. All illustrations are in color from the best sources available.

Dickinson's books are of a consistently high quality and are must reads for anyone interested in Canadian stamps and first day covers.

Peter Martin



Overseas Mailers First Day Covers of Canada by Jan Pieter van der Ven and Mark Lerner. 156 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, plastic coated covers, spiral bound, British North American Philatelic Society, Canada, 2014. ISBN 978-1-927119-47-1, \$66.95 Canadian from BNAPS Books, c/o Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Avenue, Ste 202, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8S8, Canada, or www.sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks.

Noel Almeida published his *Overseas Mailers FDCs of Australia* in 2011, and now we have a similar compilation of the OM first day covers of Canada. Almeida's book inspired the co-authors to create this Canadian version. Both authors are avid Overseas Mailers cachet collectors. This is primarily a catalog of OM cacheted Canadian covers in chronological order.

However, the important introductory pages provide the history and characteristics of these unusual covers that attracted a following over the years. Overseas Mailers cachets are typically identified by the addition of a rubberstamped image on an already cacheted envelope. The driving force behind these covers was John "Jay" Leach who lived in New Jersey and worked for a petroleum firm. His sideline became the production and sale of these covers, which he kept secret from his employer. His operation began in 1948 and lasted thirty years.

Many collectors of United States OM covers are not aware that Leach created his covers for over 100 countries. These countries are listed in Appendix A of this catalog, compiled by Noel Almeida.

In the early years, Leach created his own printed cachets. Sometimes he used cachets made by other makers but enhanced them with handpainted touches. Later he used the cachets of others and added his rubberstamped design to emphasize the theme of the stamp and original cachet. Collectors may have some difficulty in identifying the early OM cachets as they are not signed. The only way to truly identify any OM cover is to find inside a printed insert made by

Leach for his covers.

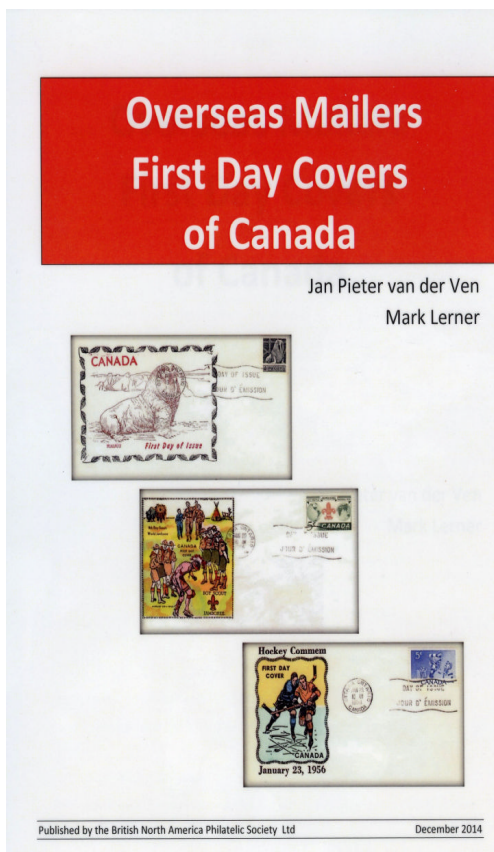
These inserts contain narrative text describing the stamp and cachet. Leach sold his covers on an approval basis and the text page was wrapped around the covers sent to prospective buyers. Each collector cut the text to a size that could be inserted into the cover. However, some collectors also discarded the inserts. And it is likely that some owners who obtained OM covers after-market removed the inserts and discarded them. These actions were a detriment in that early covers without the inserts are often difficult to prove as OM items.

The bulk of this catalog is devoted to a chronological listing of the Overseas Mailers covers of Canada, one to a page. Each page shows the original cachet in color and the insert that goes with that cover. If a cacheted cover was used with an added rubberstamp image, the original cachet is shown along with the image-added version. Each page also identifies the stamp and cover with the Scott catalog number, date of issue, denomination and subject of the stamp, and whether the base cachet was an OM or other cachet maker.

Two other characteristics appear on each page. One is a "market level" with a number from 1 to 5 indicating relative value of \$5 to \$100 Canadian. The second characteristic is a "type" letter from A to H that indicates whether the base cachet is OM or other maker, is embellished with handpainted elements, and whether there is an added rubberstamp image. In a few scarce cases the rubberstamped image is hand embellished as well.

The covers in this catalog are nicely illustrated with large images in color. More importantly the inserts are well reproduced so that collectors can identify their covers as OM items for sure. Collectors of Canada's cacheted first day covers from the late 1950s to the early 70s should have this reference in their library.

Alan Warren



2015 Brookman edited by David S. Macdonald. Bedford, N.H.: Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, 2014. 416 pages, 8.5 by 11 inches, color illus., perfect or spiral bound.

Available for \$35.95 (perfect) or \$39.95 (spiral) plus \$5 P&H from: Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, 167 So. River Rd. Unit #3, Bedford, NH 03110; Phone (800) 332-3383.

The 2015 Brookman was released late last year and, as with previous editions covers English speaking North America, including the United States (with territories and possessions such as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canal Zone, Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau), Canada and United Nations.

Brookman also provides expanded coverage for U.S. back of the book issues, U.S. first day covers, World War II and Korean War Patriotics, postal collectibles and autographs.

Brookman uses Scott catalog numbers throughout by agreement with Scott Publishing Company.

The standard format consists of two-column listings with some three-column pages.

Like other recent editions, many of the color images are quite dark, especially for modern issues, but they are still useful references. Individual stamp images are provided for most major categories. but others only have selected images.

Brookman is really a retail price list used by Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, Brookman Stamp Company and a number of stamp dealers around the country.

Prices are given for used and unused stamps, often further separated by condition.

U.S. first day covers have their own introduction with listings that start with Scott 5A. Issues for the 1920s and 1930s include prices for all official cities. The first cachets of major cachetmakers are interspersed.

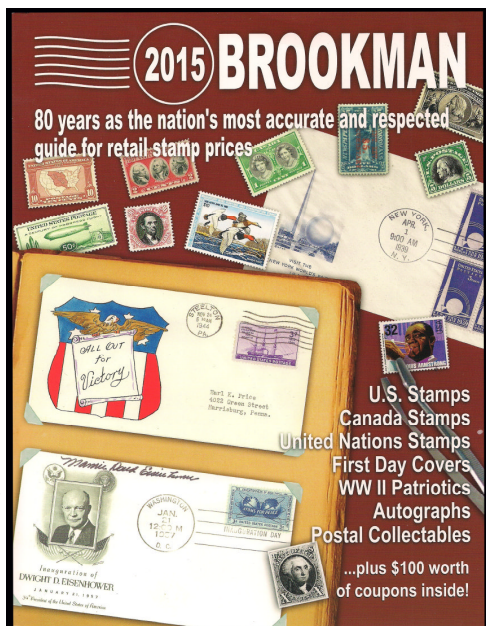
The postal collectibles section includes such items as souvenir cards, souvenir pages and commemorative panels.

Publisher Arlene Dunn reports that: "Collector interest in first day covers is in the more elusive 1920 to early 1930s first days. Rare material sells immediately, both in auction and in dealers stocks. As in the past, interest in World War II Patriotics remains strong."

Each book contains \$100 worth of coupons and a free one-year subscription to the quarterly *The Brookman Times*.

The 2015 Brookman is available in perfect and spiral bound editions. The Brookman catalog provides first day cover collectors one of the few places where they can check the relative rarity of FDCs in their collections.

Peter Martin



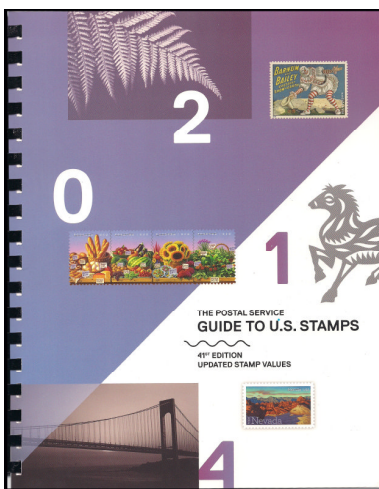
The 2014 Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps, 41st Edition. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Postal Service, 2014, comb bound, 8-1/2 x 10-1/2 inch, 416 pp., color illus. (Item 891400) \$29.95.

The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps was released late last year and this 416-page edition is its largest to date.

The 41st edition provides a basic list of United States regular issue and commemorative stamps from Scott 1 through Scott 4845, the November 2013 Kwanzaa stamp.

While the 2014 stamps aren't cataloged, there is a list of them at the front with references to page numbers where the stamps are illustrated and described. These snippets are interspersed throughout the catalog.

Also included are many back of the book items including, airmail, semi-postals, official mail, newspaper stamps, duck stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards.



Listings are organized by Scott number, and the denomination, subject and date of issue are provided, along with values for used, unused, plate blocks/line pairs and first day covers. Major varieties are also provided.

The stamps are illustrated in high-quality color.

At the back of the catalog are a useful glossary and topical index, plus a list of stamps contained in various USPS stamp series.

The reference section is a real mish mash and needs to be reviewed and updated. The literature section is particularly dated with long out of print publications such as the 2009 Brookman.

Despite its shortcomings, the full-color catalog, with its low cost, is ideal for beginners.

Peter Martin


2014 CAC NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

The American Philatelic Society's Chapter Activities Committee (CAC) has announced the winners in its 2014 Newsletter Competition. The newsletters submitted to the competition by APS chapters will be on display at Stamp-Show 2015.

The purpose of the annual CAC competition is to spotlight stamp club and federation newsletter editors, to acknowledge their hard work on behalf of philately, and to publicize it within the philatelic community. In addition to awards themselves, each submission received a judges' critiques on the

newsletters' content and format, with suggestions for possible improvements.

The 2014 newsletters were judged by a panel of experienced editors and writers. They were Denise Stotts, Karen Weigt, and Paul Goodwin.

For information about the 2015 CAC Newsletter Competition you may contact Jane Fohn, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX or e-mail jkfohn.alamo.1043@gmail.com. The competition application may be found on the CAC web site at <http://www.stamps.org/CAC/>. 

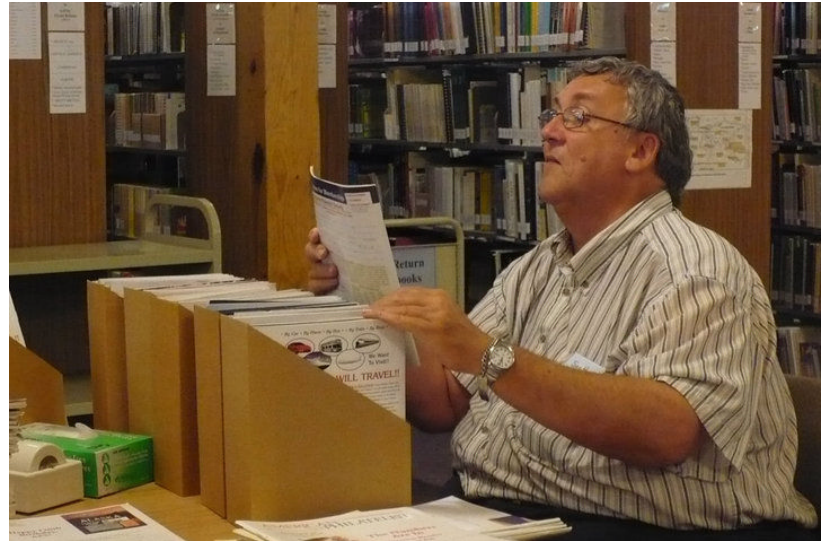
CHAPTER / NEWSLETTERS	EDITOR	AWARD
Class II: Multi-Page		
Calgary Philatelic Society <i>Calgary Philatelist</i>	Dale Speirs Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Vermeil
Charlottesville Stamp Club <i>Stamping About Town</i>	William W. Sihler Keswick, VA	Vermeil
Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club <i>Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club Newsletter</i>	Ed Weisberg Philadelphia, PA	Vermeil
Hollywood Stamp Club <i>Hollywood Philatelist</i>	Enrique Setaro Miami, FL	Vermeil
Knoxville Philatelic Society <i>Knoxville Philatelic Society News</i>	Thomas W. Broadhead Knoxville, TN	Gold
Lincoln Stamp Club <i>The Souvenir Sheet</i>	David M. Frye Denton, NE	Gold
Mid-Cities Stamp Club <i>Stamping Around</i>	Peter Elias Plano, TX	Gold
New Haven Philatelic Society <i>The Postmaster</i>	Campbell Buchanan Branford, CT	Gold
Oregon Stamp Society <i>The Album Page</i>	Caroline Brandt Portland, OR	Vermeil
Palo Duro Philatelic Society <i>Palo Duro Philatelist</i>	John Abrams Albuquerque, NM	Vermeil
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County <i>Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Newsletter</i>	Paul Petersen Lancaster, PA	Gold
Saugeen Stamp Club <i>The Bulletin</i>	Bill Findlay Durham, Ontario, Canada	Silver
Sequoia Stamp Club <i>Stamp Chatter</i>	Jim Giacomazzi Redwood City, CA	Gold
Venice (FL) Stamp Club <i>Venice Stamp Club Newsletter</i>	Dawn R. Hamman Venice, FL	Gold
Ventura County Philatelic Society <i>The Ventura County Philatelic Society Newsletter</i>	John Weigle Ventura, CA	Gold
Wilkinsburg Stamp Club <i>Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Newsletter</i>	Thomas C. Reiff Pittsburgh, PA	Gold
Winnipeg Philatelic Society <i>The Buffalo</i>	Donald Bauhuud Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	Vermeil
Class III: Federation		
Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance <i>PhilaJournal</i>	Susan Butler Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Gold
Oklahoma Philatelic Society <i>The Oklahoma Philatelist</i>	Reginald L. Hofmaier Yukon, OK	Silver
Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs <i>Across the Fence Post</i>	Aimée Devine Janesville, WI	Vermeil

Scott M. Troutman

Longtime editor and author in the field of revenues, Scott M. Troutman died February 20 at age 64. He was active in the State Revenue Society and edited its journal *State Revenue News* for many years. He contributed scores of articles to that journal and was also published in *The American Revenuer*, *American Philatelist*, and *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

He authored *The Black Proprietary Stamps of 1914-1916* (2004) and edited the landmark *SRS State Revenue Stamps Catalog* (2007). Troutman was also active in the North Carolina Postal History Society and contributed many articles to its journal, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*.

Alan Warren



Scott Troutman performing volunteer work at APRL.
Photo Ellen Peachey

Lester E. Winick

Longtime author, exhibitor, judge, and show executive Les Winick died March 5 in Galesburg, Ill., at age 87. He authored the Scandinavian Collectors Club monograph *Iceland: A Bibliography*, published as a supplement to the August 1978 issue of SCC's quarterly journal *The Posthorn*. It was a compilation of philatelic articles and books in the English language. His exhibit of "Iceland Air Mail" won many high awards and his collection was sold in 2001 by Cherrystone Auctions.

Other monographs authored by Winick include *Soviet Space Catalog*, *Space Stamps*, *The Beck Handbook of Printed Cachets*, and *The White Ace Postage Stamp Identifier*. Together with Reuben Ramkissoon Les co-authored *Study of 'Suspect' Space Covers*, and *A Philatelic History of Space Exploration Part 1: The Pioneer Years 1904-1960*.

Les wrote "The Insider" column in *Linn's Stamp News*, for over 25 years where he commented on current topics and was not afraid to report on matters relating to the APS, UPU, UPSS, ASDA, etc. In addition to this column his articles appeared in the *Airpost Journal*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, *American Philatelist*, *Philatelic Communicator* and elsewhere. He wrote a stamp column in the *Chicago*

Tribune that was widely syndicated.

Winick is best known for his dedicated involvement with the highly successful U.S. international show AMERIPEX, held in Chicago in 1986, where he was Executive Director. He was a founding member of the Park Forest Stamp Club in Illinois, an international judge and commissioner, and exhibitor. He traveled in the U.S. and abroad frequently and devoted much of his time to meeting with fellow collectors.

He was a former president of the Collectors Club of Chicago and the Arthur Salm Foundation. The American Topical Association named him Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 1978. The Chicago Philatelic Society presented him its Saul Newbury award in 1982, and he received the Les Shriber, Sr., trophy for the best article in the *American Philatelist* the same year. In 1997 Les was honored with the APS Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately.

Les Winick served in the United States Army Medical Corps 1944-1946. Later he moved to the Chicago area where he was a manufacturer's representative. He was predeceased by his wife Barbara and son Norm. He is survived by his daughter Diane, son Andy, and daughter-in-law Christine and their families.

Alan Warren





Secretary-Treasurer's Report

About Writers Unit #30

Purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to the *Philatelic Communicator*. Membership applications received by October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four quarterly issues of the *Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year.

A membership application may be downloaded from the Writers Unit #30 website at www.wu30.org. Existing members are encouraged to download this form and give it to potential members so they can join.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses.....	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico.....	\$22.50
All Other Addresses.....	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. This will also save WU#30 several dollars because the USPS charges us when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

Ken Trettin
WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
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Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Note that Dr. Claussen has moved. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danec.clausen@gmail.com.

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2015 Literature and Web Exhibits

APS StampShow August 20-23, 2015, Grand Rapids, MI,
www.stamps.org/StampShow
CHICAGOPEX November 20-22, 2015, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com/
APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 2016 entrance deadline. jkfohn.alamo.1043@gmail.com
APS CAC Website Competition, Spring 2016,
www.stamps.org/cac/
NAPEX, June, 2016, McLean Tysons Corner, VA,
www.napex.org/